

Photo: Harmony Hasbins, White House Historical Association

PRESIDENT'S PARK

WINTER 2005

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

On Exhibit: Presidential Inaugurations

The history of Presidential Inaugurations for more than two hundred years can be re-visited in this exhibit on display through February at the White House Visitor Center.

Every four years, since 1801, a Presidential Inauguration has been held in Washington, D.C., the culmination of our electoral process. Some of these marked a change of President and even a change of the political party in power, while others were second inaugurations for incumbent presidents.

Inauguration Day was officially held on March 4th through 1933. The four months between an election and an inauguration proved to be too long, and the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1933, officially changed Inauguration Day to January 20th.

The Inauguration site has not been constant. Early Presidents were sworn into office inside the Capitol. Today, a platform and stands are erected on the west side of the Capitol and the National Mall.

The Inaugural Parade, which began spontaneously as President Thomas Jefferson returned to the White House in 1805, has developed into a

formal, often lengthy procession reviewed by the President and his family from a stand in front of the White House.

Advances in communication technology have contributed to the public's awareness of the Inaugurations of their Presidents. The 1857 Inauguration of President James Buchanan is the earliest to have been photographed.

In 2005, the Inaugural ceremony will be beamed to hundreds of countries around the globe on television and the Internet.

These happy days end with the most elegant festivities as Inaugural Balls are held throughout Washington, D.C.



President Calvin Coolidge reviews the troops from a stand erected on the North Lawn of the White House for his 1923 Inaugural Parade. Photo: Library of Congress

Around President's Park

Zero Milestone

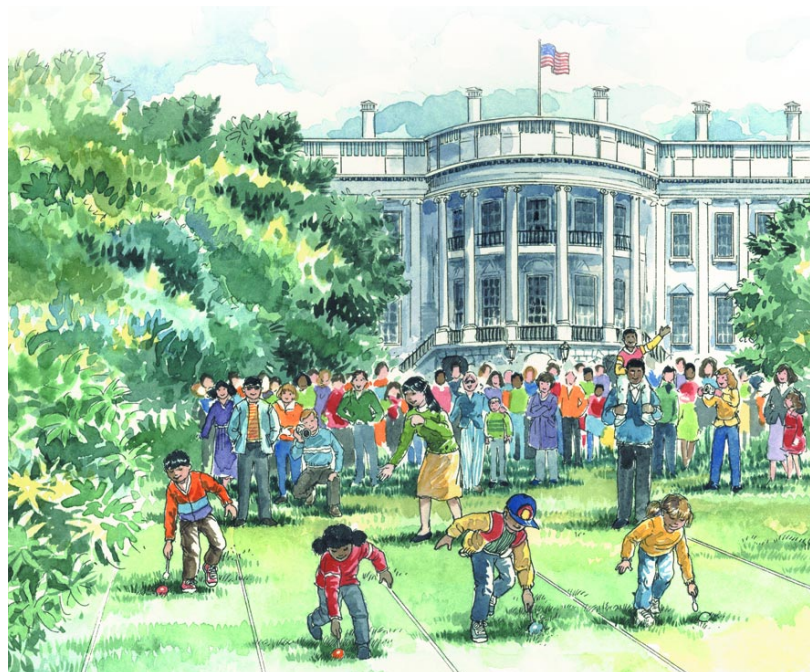
In 1919, Colonel J.M. Ritchie of the U.S. Army's Motor Transportation Corps received a proposal from good roads advocate, Dr. S. M. Johnson, for "a spot marked by an initial milestone from which all road distances in the United States and throughout the Western hemisphere should be measured". This would be the starting point for the U.S. Army's first attempt to send a convoy of military vehicles across the country to the West Coast.

The Zero Milestone marks the approximate meeting place of the Lincoln Highway and the Lee Highway, bringing together the northern and southern systems of national roads.

On July 7, 1919, the temporary marker was dedicated on the Ellipse, south of the White House, as the convoy planned to depart. The convoy was composed of over sixty trucks and maintained by more than 200 men. The convoy reached San Francisco on September 6, 1919, and all the military men were awarded special medals. One young officer on the trip was Lt. Col. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who became our 34th president in 1952.

On June 5, 1920, Congress authorized the erection of a permanent marker and the Lee Highway Association presented the four foot high shaft of pink granite with a bronze compass on top to the city on June 4, 1923. President Warren G. Harding was in attendance. The United States Army Band played "Hail! Hail! The Caravan!" and the occasion brought together "more automobiles than were ever before assembled in the city".

During Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency in the early 1950s, emphasis was placed on building super highways rather than two lane roads. Eisenhower cited his remembrance of the convoy and his military experience in Germany viewing super highways called "autobahns". Eisenhower considered the Interstate Highway System one of the most important accomplishments of his two terms in office. In 2006 we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System.



The Annual Easter Egg Roll: A White House Tradition

The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition dating back to 1878 and the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes. On the Monday after Easter, hundreds of children ages seven and under flock to the South Lawn of the White House to roll colorful eggs through the grass.

Appearances by the White House Easter Bunny, souvenir eggs, celebrities and maypole dances have surprised and delighted children at this event throughout the years.

This year's event will be held on Monday, March 28. In case of inclement weather, the Egg Roll will be canceled. For more information about the Easter Egg Roll, please call the White House Visitors Office 24-hour information line at (202) 456-7041 after February 15.

Illustration: Barbara Leonard Gibson, reprinted from *The White House Easter Egg Roll*, ©1997 The White House Historical Association

JANUARY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

The Visitor Center is closed for the New Year's Day holiday.

DAILY, JANUARY 3 – 6

"The New Capital City" – Join a Ranger and discuss how Washington became the third capital of the United States. Program begins at 12 noon.

DAILY, JANUARY 11 – 15

"I do solemnly swear..." – Join a Park Ranger's slide presentation on the history of Presidential Inaugurations. Program begins at 12 noon.



Thousands gather on the South Lawn for Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth Inaugural in 1945, held in the Executive Mansion due to the President's poor health. Photo: National Archives

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

"Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. Screening at 1 p.m.

DAILY, JANUARY 18 – 22

"I do solemnly swear..." – Join a Park Ranger's slide presentation on the history of Presidential Inaugurations. Program begins at 12 noon.

DAILY, JANUARY 25 – 29

"Mary Todd Lincoln" – Join a Park Ranger and discuss the wife of the 16th President of the United States. Mrs. Lincoln was probably the most maligned and misunderstood first lady of the 19th century. Program begins at 12 noon.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 29

"Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. Screening at 1 p.m.

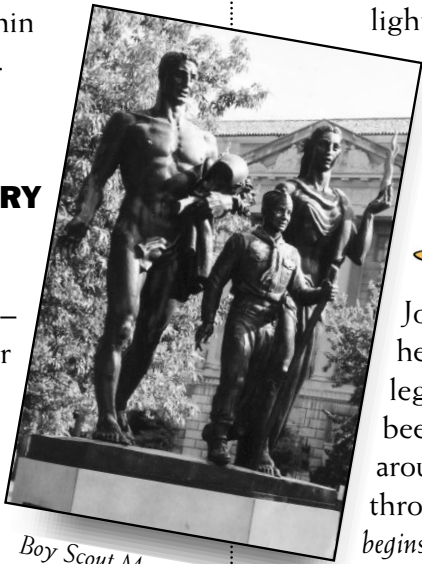
FEBRUARY

DAILY, FEBRUARY 1 – 4

"Family Memories" – A Park Ranger's program on family life within the White House. Program begins at 12 noon.

DAILY, FEBRUARY 8 – 12

"A Walk through President's Park" – Join a Park Ranger and explore the parkland around the White House. The Butt-Millet Fountain, the First Division Monument, and the Boy Scout Memorial are among the memorials in President's Park. Program begins at 12 noon.



Boy Scout Memorial

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

"Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. Screening at 1 p.m. Screening will be repeated on Saturday, February 26.

DAILY, FEBRUARY 15 – 19

"A Walk around the Park" – Join a park Ranger and explore the monuments and memorials in the Park. Program begins at 12 noon.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Crafts Program – "What is President's Day?" – Activities for children offered between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

DAILY, FEBRUARY 22 – 26

"Washington's Washington" – Discover how a dismal, swampy lowland developed into the beautiful parkland surrounding the White House. Program begins at 12 noon.

	Interpretive Program
	Walking Tour
	Video Presentation
	Musical Presentation
	Special Event

MARCH

DAILY, MARCH 1 – 4

"Yes, We Have No Picassos" – Join a slide presentation highlighting American art in the White House. Program begins at 12 noon.

DAILY, MARCH 8 – 12

"Wildlife at the White House" – Join a Park Ranger and hear about all the four-legged "critters" that have been found on the grounds around the White House through the years. Program begins at 12 noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

"Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. Screening at 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

The U.S. Air Force Band gives a special musical concert. Program begins at 1:30 p.m.



DAILY, MARCH 15 – 19

"Visitors at Baldrige Hall" – The White House Visitor Center is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Join a Ranger discussion on the history of this famed Hall. Program begins at 12 noon.

DAILY, MARCH 21 – 24

"The Good Friday that Wasn't" – Join a Ranger discussion and listen to the plots, conspiracies and attempts to overthrow the government and how they relate to Good Friday, 1865. Program begins at 12 noon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

"Air Force One" – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. Screening at 1 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

White House Easter Egg Roll Tickets required. See article on opposite page.

DAILY, MARCH 29 – 31

"Mr. Lincoln's Washington" – Join a park ranger's discussion of Washington during the Civil War (1861-65). Program begins at 12 noon.



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.